We are continuing a series on the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Scriptures. Contrary to modern understandings, wisdom has a divine origin, not a human one. As we read wisdom literature, we can easily get the mistaken impression that wisdom involves the memorization and application of certain texts. The fact is, wisdom is not just common sense based upon experience; it is a result of a relationship with God.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge… Proverbs 1.7

The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding. Job 28.28

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12.13

The divine origin of wisdom means that at its foundation wisdom is not a lesson to be learned but a relationship to enjoy. The wisdom we see in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs did not come from simply human origin; instead it comes from the very heart of God.

A definition that I heard years ago seems to really apply. Wisdom is seeing and responding to life from God’s perspective. It really is about life lived in response to a relationship. Those responses are skills that can be developed as our relationship with God deepens.

What are some of the by-products of this Wisdom relationship?

13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,
14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.
15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed. Proverbs 3.13-18
How do I go about developing this Wisdom?

1. We Need to Read God’s Word.

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 for gaining wisdom and instruction;
   for understanding words of insight;
3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
   doing what is right and just and fair;
4 for giving prudence to those who are simple,
   knowledge and discretion to the young –
5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
   and let the discerning get guidance –
6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
   the sayings and riddles of the wise. Proverbs 1.1-6

2. We Need to Do What That Word Says.

1 My son, keep my words
   and store up my commands within you.
2 Keep my commands and you will live;
   guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers;
   write them on the tablet of your heart. Proverbs 7.1-3

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1.22

3. We Need to Get to Know God More Deeply.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
   but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1.7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
   and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9.10

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be
   with you to keep you from sinning.” Exodus 20.20

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.
   Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you;
   embrace her, and she will honor you. Proverbs 4.7-8

Knowing truth is never enough. We can teach another person and they are able to parrot the
   truth back to us, and oftentimes we are satisfied by that. We say that they know this truth. But
Paul was not satisfied, he knew that you don’t know truth in that way. You never know it until it
has gripped you, and you have been changed by it. God has designed life that way. Paul prays
for that which is of true value in our lives.

We need to understand that lasting value, (wisdom), comes with depth of relationship.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of
   wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1.17